

MEETING RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA

Rules of Procedure for the Regular Meeting Agendas

- A. Hearing procedures for advertised Public Hearings (non-zoning matters)
Persons wishing to address the City Council in duly advertised public hearings will be heard in the order in which they come forward upon announcement of the hearing without regard to whether the person is speaking in favor or against the matter. Each speaker is generally allotted a maximum of five minutes (unless a shorter or longer time is set by the City Council).
- B. Public Participation in Council meetings
The City Council welcomes visitors to Council meetings and is eager to hear any person or persons desiring to appear before the council on comments that pertain to the City of Marietta Government and operations over which the Council has jurisdiction.
- C. Definitions:
Chair – is the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, Presiding Officer, Committee Chair or other appropriate person that is chairing the meeting at the time.
- D. Protocol. Mayor or appropriate Presiding Officer shall state the Rules of Procedures in summary form at the beginning of the Agenda Item and the City Attorney shall monitor the time limits. For Agenda items that have no public hearing, the Chair shall encourage interested Citizens to address their point of view as to such items during the unscheduled appearance portions of the meeting.
- E. For Citizens appearing before the council with comments in either the Scheduled and Unscheduled portions wishing to present written documentation of whatever nature, shall present such to the City Clerk for distribution to the Council and Staff.

Rules of Procedure to address the Council

- A. Persons wishing to address the Council shall do so during the Scheduled or Unscheduled Appearances portion near the beginning and conclusion of the agenda, specifically, immediately before the Consent Agenda and immediately before Mayor and Councils' Comment.
 - 1. Speakers are allowed to address the City Council at each Regular Meeting of the Council under Scheduled Appearances. Speakers under Scheduled Appearances shall sign-up with the City Manager's Office until 10:00 a.m. on the day the draft agendas are first sent to the City Council for the Council Meeting, up to a maximum of four speakers. Each Speaker will be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes for their presentation for a cumulative total of twenty (20) minutes. Speakers will be recognized in the order of their respective sign-up, if more than 4 Speakers signing-up, those who did not qualify within the first four Speakers will be on stand-by and are eligible as substitutes for Speakers in the order that they signed up if any of the four (4) Speakers are unable to attend said Council Meeting. As the topic of the Speaker is not an agenda item, no discussion or response from Council is required.
 - 2. Unscheduled Appearance Speakers (are allowed to address the City Council at each Regular Meeting of the Council for a maximum combined time of 30 minutes per designated Unscheduled Appearance Agenda Items for the designated Unscheduled Appearance and any speakers not reached during that time will have an opportunity to speak at the later unscheduled appearance at the end of the meeting. Speakers under Unscheduled Appearances shall sign up with City Attorney on a first-come basis upon the Chair's announcement of the opening of this public session and those not sign up shall follow the signed-up citizens if time allows. No prior reservations will be taken for the slots for Unscheduled Appearances. Each speaker will be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes for their presentation for a cumulative time of twenty minutes each speaker shall come forward to the podium to speak when called upon by the City Attorney. This public session will be adjourned upon the 30 minutes being exhausted or no further speakers comes forward before the end of the 30 minutes.
 - 3. An extension to the public comment session, and/or an extension of the five (5) minute limit per person, may be granted by a majority vote of the Council members present or upon no opposition being indicated by council members when asked by the presiding elected official.
 - 4. If appropriate, a written response to each speaker will be provided by the appropriate City staff, usually within thirty (30) days or they may be directed to the appropriate City official to be addressed. The City Council has the option to respond verbally at the completion of each speaker's presentation.
 - 5. After each individual speaker's remarks have concluded, the Chair may, but shall not be required to, briefly respond, either personally or through another member of the City Council, but not in the form of creating a debate. In addition, when a request for special action or a grievance has been heard, the matter will be referred to the City Manager (or his/her designee) who will prepare a response to the matter.
- B. All persons shall address the council in the following manner:
 - 1. State his /her name and state address if desired (address is required only on the sign-in list and may be

- omitted if the speaker does not wish to receive a written response).
2. If requested by the council, the speaker may be required to state:
 - a. Whether you speak for yourself or another person;
 - b. Whether you represent an organization or policy established by an organization or governing body;
 - c. Whether you are being compensated by the person(s) for whom you speak; and
 - d. Whether you or any member of your immediate family have a personal interest in the pending matter.
 - C. All remarks shall be made to the council as a body and addressed through the Chair. Remarks shall not be made to a particular council member.
 - D. Questions from the Mayor or council members and/or the City manager may be asked for clarification. Chair shall recognize Council Members for questions or comments they may wish to ask or make. However, no person shall be permitted to enter into any discussion or have personal dialogues, either directly or through a member of the council, without permission of the council.
 - E. No person shall be allowed to make impertinent, derogatory, offensive or slanderous remarks while addressing the Council.
 - F. Scheduled and Unscheduled Appearances are a time for a member(s) of the public to provide their comments. Scheduled and Unscheduled Appearances and hearings are not meant to be a question and answer format, and such shall not be allowed to occur by the presiding elected official.
 - G. The Chair of a Council/Committee meeting may additionally allow a member of the public to speak from time to time on a specific issue at the discretion of the Chair with general non-vote consensus of Council Committees, for a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker, unless time is extended by the Chair with consent of the Council/Committee. Otherwise, such special appearances shall follow the general rules of these Article II provisions. In the event speakers shall take opposing sides of an issue, an equal number of opposing speakers shall be allowed on each side of an issue up to a total of four (4) speakers which would be two (2) speakers on each side of an issue.

Meeting rules for the City Council; Zoning Hearing Meetings; Zoning Agenda Items

A. Regular Agenda

1. Representatives/applicants, as a group, and representatives/opponents, as a group, shall be given a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes for each side to present its case, unless, by general consensus, more time is allotted by the City Council.
2. Both the applicant and opposition shall have equal amounts of time, up to fifteen (15) minutes, to present their case and if time is extended for one side, time shall equally be extended for the other side.
3. Those speaking in opposition, up to three people, shall have five (5) minutes each not to exceed the total (15) minutes. If four or more people wish to speak in opposition to the request, the time limit of fifteen (15) minutes shall be equally divided. Council may extend the time.
4. In order to accommodate all those that wish to speak, it is encouraged that groups which are present choose a spokesperson to present their views. In no case, however, shall any group be allowed more than the allotted time no matter how many speakers represent the group unless extended by a majority vote of the Council members present.
5. The City Attorney shall be responsible for conducting a Public Hearing, keeping time and administering the oath to a speaker.
6. The person addressing Council may be required to state the following information.
 - a. Whether you speak for yourself or another person;
 - b. Whether you represent an organization or policy established by an organization or governing body;
 - c. Whether you are being compensated by the person(s) for whom you speak; and
 - d. Whether you or any member of your immediate family have a personal interest in the pending matter.
7. As each case is called, all witnesses for the applicant and opponents shall first be sworn in prior to making their presentations.
8. No further public input will be allowed except responses to questions asked by the Council members.
9. The Applicant shall go first and may reserve any remaining time to conclude after the opposition has had their turn. The time for rebuttal by the applicant shall be included in the fifteen (15) minutes time limit.
10. Questions and answers to those questions from Council members shall not count against the time of the side that is asked questions.
11. At the public hearing, the applicant or any other party may appear on his own behalf or be represented by agent or attorney.
12. No applause shall be allowed either for or against an issue.
13. No request for a show of hands for or against an issue shall be allowed.
14. All speakers shall be accorded due respect by other citizens in attendance at the meeting.

In all hearings and/or appearances before the Marietta City Council, same shall be conducted in an orderly manner; and there shall be no applause during such appearance/hearing; and no comment or participation while another person is addressing the Marietta City Council; and there shall be no show of hands or other public participation during such hearing/appearance.